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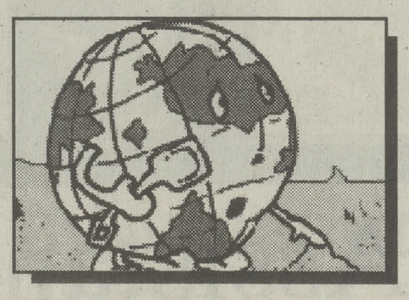
VALLEY Star

COMMENTARY



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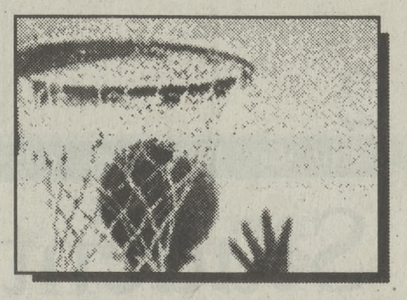
SPORTS



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Volume 50, Issue 24 LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE Thursday, December 4, 1997

CAMPUS SCENE

MUSIC RECITAL HALL

❖ The Valley College Choir and Chamber Singers will perform on Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. and noon.

❖ LAVC Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra will perform on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. General Admission is $6 and $5 for students and seniors.

LITTLE THEATRE

❖ A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed on Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 13 at 8 p.m. There will be an admission charge

PLANETARIUM

❖ There will be a Planetarium Show: "Women in Astronomy" on Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. There will be an admission charge.

MUSIC ROOM 112

❖ LAVC Jazz Ensemble will perform on Dec. 8 at noon.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

❖ PUENTE/CHEMAS-curriculum with a Latino emphasis will be held on Dec. 9 at noon in Room 104.

HEALTH CLINIC

❖ HIV testing is offered on Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

OFF CAMPUS

❖ Men's Basketball Renegade Shoot-Out will be held at Bakersfield in Dec. 5.

❖ Women's Basketball Sequoias Invitational will be held at Visalia on Dec. 5.

POLICE WATCH

November 24
A student's purse was stolen from Humanities 121.

November 25
A Honda was stolen from Lot A.

December 1
A car was stolen from Lot A

December 2
A student's wallet was stolen from the Theater Arts Building.

Information is provided by campus police.

Students tussle with Schedule

By STEVE BELAND
STAR REPORTER

Academic counselors are preparing for the end-of-semester rush of students seeking transfer information and course requirements.

Counselor Reggie Reed said there are four counselors are on duty during these rush periods to counsel students while others are conducting student orientations or transfer workshops. He advises students to schedule appointments in advance and to arrive on time.

"We have 15 counselors available for approximately 15,000 students," Reed said.

Reed said some students wait until the last minute to make counseling appointments instead of scheduling them during the semester or between semesters, when the department is isn't as busy. He said counselors will try to accommodate these students but if they have waited until the night before a deadline to request an application that must be turned in the next day, there isn't much that the counselors can do at that point.

Some students have complained they have received different advice on what classes to take from counselors and instructors. For example, an instructor might advise a student that they need English 101 to graduate while the counselor informs the student that English 28 is all that is needed to graduate from Valley College but English 101 is required for transfer to a four-year school. Reed said these

SEE COUNSELING Page 2

Carol Danielsson/Valley Star
A Grant High student lights candles at the accident site, as friends try to come to terms with the tragic loss of their fellow student.

Valley Student Mourns for her Child

By REBEKAH FOWLER
STAR REPORTER

It was the one time that Grant High student Inna Marutian crossed the street without using the cross walk and it cost her life.

Family and friends witnessed the accident as 16 year old Marutian ran across the street to have lunch with her family.

"She was happy to have lunch with her grandmother and cousins who recently arrived from Russia," her best friend, Mariya Petrosyan said. "Her mom was calling her from across the street and then she was killed."

Petrosyan said the young Marutian received a call from her mother letting her know that her family was waiting for her to go out for lunch. Her grandmother was visiting from Russia.

"We usually walk home together and we always use the crosswalk," Petrosyan said. "Inna was always the careful one."

Marutian said goodbye to her best friend and crossed Oxnard safely into the median where she was struck by a truck being driven by a former Grant student.

"Inna was standing in the median when the truck hit her," friend Sam Muradyan said. "The driver had drove past the school once or twice before."

Several witnesses said the vehicle was speeding, and went around traffic to avoid stopping.

"I am in shock," Mesrop Terzyan said. "I saw what happened and I feel pain for the mother because she saw it too."

Many of Marutian's friends signed a petition to have a cross walk put in front of Grant High. The students said that it is not the first time there has been an accident in front of the school.

"Students cross here all the time," Muradyan said. "It is too late for Inna but maybe because of her they will make a cross walk."

The driver of the truck was not charged and this also is devastating to the family.

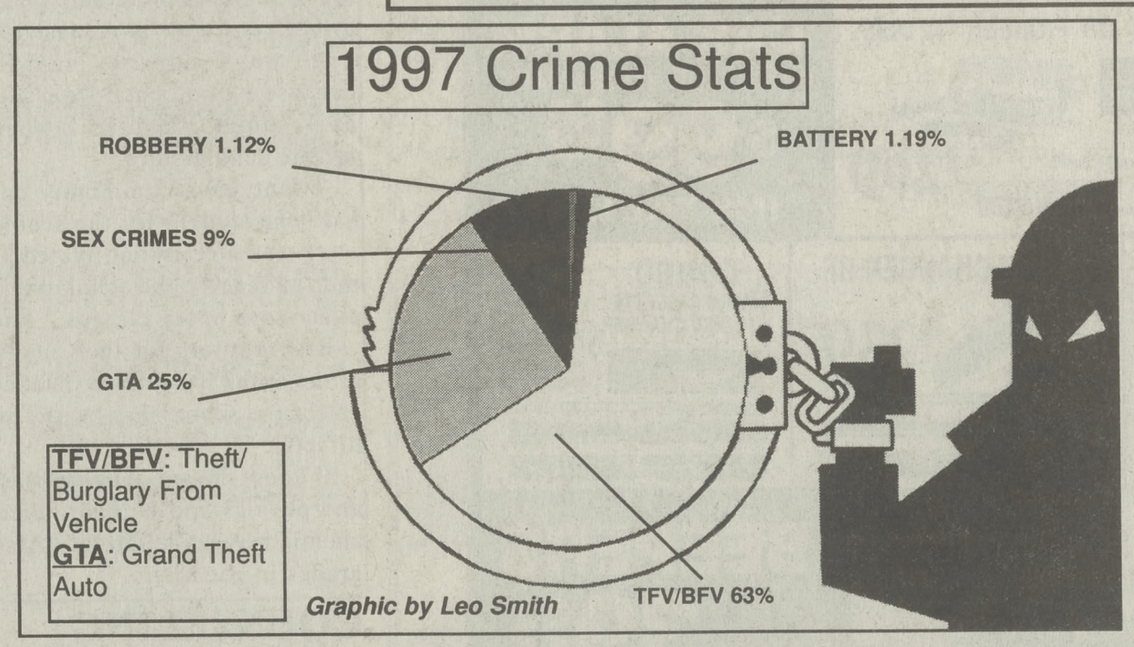
"The police ignored us when we told them the driver of the truck was speeding," Muradyan said. "They blame the student but she was waiting in the center."

Friends and classmates of Marutian left cards, flowers and candles in the street where she crossed as a way to say goodbye.

"They should have made a crosswalk long ago," Petrosyan said. "My best friend did not deserve to die that way."

Valley College student Rita Marutian lost her only child on Friday, Nov. 21. Her death has totally devastated her mother. Friends and family said that Marutian has not left her room since the day of the accident.

"I don't know what to say," Marutian sobbed. She remains closed off to family and friends.



Annual Crime Rate Down

■ **CRIME:** However, sex crimes on campus increased in 1997.

By REBEKAH FOWLER
STAR REPORTER

The overall crime statistics show that crime has declined in the last two years at Valley College.

With the exception of sex crimes, from 1995 to 1997 there has been a steady decline in crime on campus.

"Students need not be alarmed at the statistics for sex crimes," campus police officer, Captain Traber said. "The increase was caused by once incident which occurred earlier this semester."

The statistics show that sex crimes increased 87 percent from 1995. However, the incident involving David Quinn, counts for four separate sex charges.

The sex crimes involve indecent exposure, sexual battery, and any verbal misconduct related to sex, Traber said.

"There have been no rapes on campus, and we attribute that to the constant patrol," Traber said.

Although the percentage of sex crimes increased there have been few incidents, Traber said.

Campus police said the biggest problems are the petty thefts and burglaries from vehicles.

"The officers have made some good arrest against repeat offenders getting them off the streets," Traber said. "This has a lot to do with the crime rate dropping."

In 1997 robbery dropped 66 percent. Battery went down 80 percent. Car thefts have also decreased 33 percent.

"We expect crime to continue to drop," Traber said. "We have great officers patrolling the grounds constantly which deters criminals.

Something about Campus Sparkle

■ **Volunteer:** Picking up trash is a dirty job but students volunteer to do it.

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Valley college received a facial as students and custodians joined together to give the campus a cleaner appearance November 20.

The Valley Star and Associated Student Union hosted Campus Sparkle. The event was created by Officer Michael T. Habicht, to get students involved in keeping Valley clean.

Custodial supervisor Carl Dorsey recruited students in front of Monarch hall. While many students shrugged and offered an excuse for not participating, some students did join in. Those who did, were armed with trash bags and plastic gloves. Custodial crews drove by in their carts collecting the bags. With the amount litter on the floor, volunteers did not have a difficult time completely filling their bags.

Besides students, some Valley college staff also participated, as did campus police officer Michael Habicht. "This is our home probably for eight hours a day," he said. "If we all pitched in maybe once a month or something, just for a little time and pick up ten pieces of paper, it would help beautify our school."

A concern for many students is the lack of trash cans around campus. A student volunteer stated that the reason the campus is so dirty is because there are not enough trash cans. "I think we need more trash cans. I was walking from the parking lot, I had to wait like quite a while to dump my trash out."

Another student, Joel Whiteman, also addressed this problem. "Most of the cans are sectioned in the quad area, and around the classroom there is only a few or they are non-existent." he said.

A custodian says that new trash cans have been ordered and will be here for next semester.

Keeping the campus clean is a daily job. For all the students and faculty that participated in Campus Sparkle a special thank you from Officer Habicht and the staff at the Star.

Student Assistance Center Full of Information

By NANCY BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

Information about financial aid, scholarships, orientations, tests and much more can all be found in the Student Assistance Center.

The idea of the center is modeled after Los Angeles City College's center. Its basic goal is to help students get started. And is especially designed for students that are coming to college for the first time that are overwhelmed by the process of filling out applications, standing in long lines and having to do other complicated things, said Dr. Sergio Sotelo, Title III program director.

"The idea is to make it a less threatening process- more likely to enable students to enroll," said Sotelo. "So that's why we adopted the philosophy from City College."

The center offers campus tours to students by appointment.

"If there's enough interest we try to have them twice a month," said Sotelo. "The more the better."

Students interested in scholarships can look through a binder at the center. There are some scholarship applications kept there. This provides students with general information about the scholarship so they may know if they are eligible, said Sotelo.

"Usually during the time that we're open someone can just drop in and we can help them," said Sotelo.

Quick questions about Cal State and University of California applications can be answered at the center.

"The first time you're doing that it's a little ponderous or takes a lot of time so they can help," said Sotelo.

There are also counselor assistants who are knowledgeable with financial aid applications.

"Appointments are only needed for those who need more time going over a financial aid application," said Sotelo. "Those who need more than a couple of minutes."

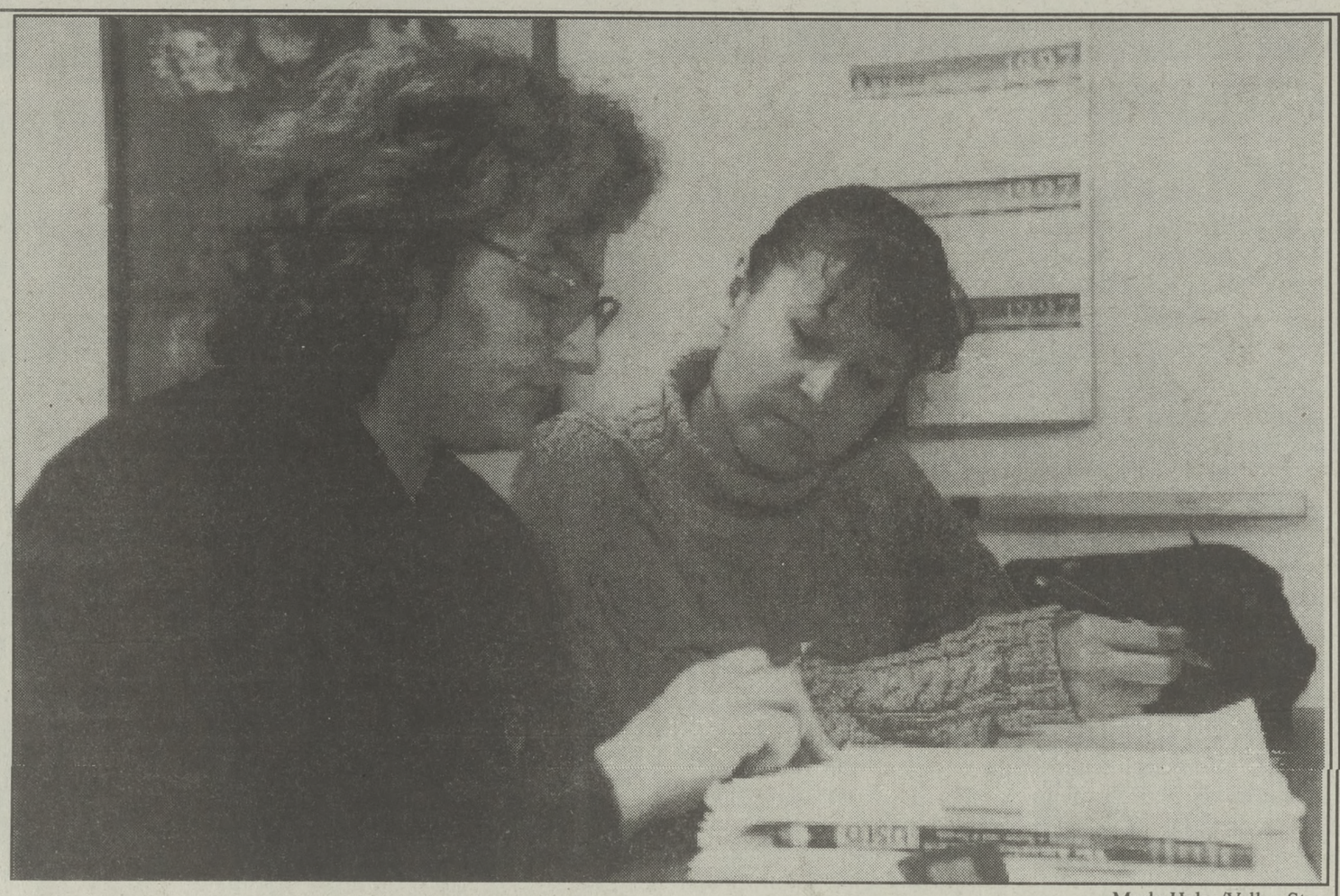
The center is a support and a resource for students, said Sotelo.

For example, in the counseling area they have the Eureka and SigiPlus computer programs. The Eureka is a database with career information on what's in demand, the preparation needed, the pay, the different occupations available and their background.

"When it's busy there or someone wants to come visit this area of the campus we also have those programs," said Sotelo.

The idea of the center is of a one stop center to help with as much as possible, said Sotelo.

"What we're trying to do is reduce confusion, especially for someone new to the campus that doesn't know how the system works," said Sotelo. "Instead of saying go there and there we can make a simple phone call."



Marla Halac/Valley Star

Math tutor Anush Karamanukyan helps Valley student Kella Potter with Business Math, in the Student Assistant Center.

The center is located in Cafeteria Room 101B it is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The center also has an information counter in the Admissions Building. Student workers are available from 8 a.m. to noon and from 4 to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

"We tell students to come up there if they need anything, if they need any questions answered so they don't get the run around," said Rudy De La Torre, career guidance counselor assistant. "We know most of the things that are going on campus and if we don't we'll find out for the student. We'll do that extra little bit if a student can't find something, it's easy to pick up the phone and call another office to ask ."

The center also provides partial funds for tutors in the Math Lab. And can give referrals to other agencies off and on campus.

"It's just a matter of being student friendly, we try to avoid traffic jam of unfriendly people so students feel welcome and want to come here," said Sotelo.

Valley College Student Wins Scholarship

By NANCY BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

A Valley College student received a $500 scholarship from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Cal Tech University.

Alberto Rivera, an English and Biology Chemistry major received his scholarship, a plaque and was invited to an award ceremony in August 1997.

"It was a surprise," said Rivera. "I guess a shock to me because I came back from medical school at the University of Washington and that's when they told me I got nominated for the scholarship."

Twenty-five community colleges were selected to nominate one student for the scholarship said Rivera.

"I was already motivated from the summer program and then to receive the scholarship- it just propelled me to excel even more in my classes," said Rivera.

Rivera tutors for the Chemistry Math program and works at the at the Student Assistance Center. Rivera was nominated for the schoarship by Dr. Sergio Sotelo, Title III program director.

"I knew the scholarship was related to science, chemistry, and physics and he had indicated he was going to major in chemistry," said Sotelo. "Also he had earned pretty solid grades in chemistry."

COUNSELING
Continued from page 1

complaints are usually caused by miscommunication and that counselors will consult with instructors when they arise.

Counselors will contact other colleges for applications, catalogs and other information in an effort to help students.

"We try to give students the big picture so they can make their own decisions," Reed said.

Reed said some students who come in for counseling have no goals. He added that counselors try to help these students identify their goals by asking them what they are interested in and telling them what courses they must take if they want to pursue a degree or career in that field.

"I want students to set and reach their goals," Reed said.

Students are seen on a first-come, first-served basis. Reed said that students cannot be forced to attend orientation but that it benefits them to do so. He said that Valley College cannot force students to seek counseling, unlike the California State University system, which requires students to be advised by a counselor in their major before they are allowed to register for classes each semester.

"Anyone who is 18 or over with a high school diploma is welcome to attend Valley College," Reed said. "We don't have the same requirements as the four-year schools do."

Educational Opportunities

SCHOLARSHIPS

❖The Fund for American Studies is recruiting student leaders to participate in its 1998 summer Institutes at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Undergraduate students will gain work experience through internships in public policy, politics, business, journalism or international affairs and will earn credits through course work at Georgetown University. There is no minimum GPA requirement.

Scholarships are available for three different seven-week programs. For applications, students should contact: The Fund for American Studies at 800-741 -6964. Web site at www.dcinternships.org.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

❖ Student Professional Worker, Municipal Court, NCSSalary $7.82 per hour. Exam number:A3178F.
Position description: performs duties for the Municipal Court Public Affairs Office, under the supervision of the Director of Public Affairs, in order to obtain practical work experience in the field for which he/she is preparing while enrolled as a student in an accredited college.

Requirements: current enrollment in an accredited college and successful completion of the sophomore year in Journalism, Public Relations or other related Communications baccalaureate degree programs, and six months' experience in word processing. The examination is open to fill present and future vacancies at the Los Angeles Municipal Court, Public Affairs Office, 110 N. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS

❖ The Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards for Outstanding Coverage of the Problems of the Disadvantaged.

All entries must have been published or broadcast for the first time in 1997. Entries must be received by the RFK Journalism Award Committee at 1367 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036, no later than Jan. 31, 1998.

For more information contact Laura Gross at 202-463-7575 ext.225.

❖ The California Journalism Awards and Katherine C. MacDonald Award is open to all journalist. There are awards avaliable for Print Journalism, Radio Journalism and Television Journalism. The Katherine C. MacDonald Award is a $300 awards for excellence in journalism.

Entries must be submitted no later than January 16, 1998, and published or broadcast in California in 1997. The Center for California Studies, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA, 95819-6081.

❖ The Society of Professional Journalists presents the 1997 Mark of Excellence Awards Competition. The contest is open to students enrolled in a college or university and studying for an academic degree in 1997.

All entries must have been published or broadcast in 1997. The entry deadline is January 31, 1998. For more information and an entry form contact SPJ at 765-653-3333.

For Your Information

The Valley Star Business page is an informative page for students and faculty regarding career opportunities and scholarship information.

If you would like to contribute information to the business page you can direct your questions, comments, or concerns to Valley Star Business writers Robin Fejes and Rebekah Fowler. Although we can't answer each question individually, we will respond to the subjects in upcoming issues.

Look for Valley Star mailboxes around campus or write to us in care of LA VALLEY STAR, 5800 Fulton Ave., Bldg. B, Van Nuys, CA 91401.

Computer Science Information - Taking The First Steps Toward the 21st Century

■ **Technology:** In the past, a secretary was often credited with knowing more about how the business was run, than the boss. Today, the nouveau (computer) nerds of the nineties are now given the same credit.

By ROBIN FEJES
STAR REPORTER

Back in the 70's when computers started coming out of the proverbial "nerds" closet and into the mainstream workplace, Steve Sachs, a professor at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) recalls an incident where two computer "geeks" asked each other what languages they knew. Before listening to their responses, " Basic,' 'Cobol,' 'Fortran,' 'Pascal,' " Sachs remembered others who prematurely chimed in, " 'French,' 'Spanish,' " then walked away dumb-founded, after hearing these strange responses, openly wondering when these new languages were invented.

"Surprisingly, some things haven't changed much," Sachs said." "When asked what languages do you know? Most people will still answer 'Spanish,' 'Armenian,' 'Russian'... Even if the subject is about computers." - *Steve Sachs, professor and counselor.*

Unless you were Bill Gates of Microsoft and/or living in Silicon Valley, you were in the majority of people, still considered hip, despite not being hip to computer " buzz."

Like time, technology is also forcing us to change, as we move toward the 21st century. "Surprisingly, some things haven't changed much," Sachs said. "When asked what languages do you know? Most people will still answer 'Spanish,' 'Armenian,' 'Russian,' even if the subject is about computers."

According to Sachs, who is also a counselor at LAVC and teaches a class under office administration, a tremendous number of new students who walk into his office typically request to take a computer class so they can get a job working with computers. When asked specifics regarding computers they seem perplexed and often respond much the same way as persons did in the 70's.

Whether embarking on a career in Computer Sciences or taking classes for a degree, certificate, personal, or social reasons Sachs takes them on this A-Z tour, for an in depth look into the vast world of computers.

TAKING THOSE FIRST STEPS TOWARD 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY

Step 1
Education- Pursuing a degree/certificate in Computer Sciences.

One of the best places to start is meeting with a counselor at a college or university who can help you define, plan, choose, and tailor your classes, time, education, and career goals to best fit your lifestyle.

Step 2
Types of Classes- There are three main specialty areas in computer sciences.

1. *Computer Programming* (software) - writing, designing, interpreting language and program codes that tell a computer what it needs to do and how.

Major- Computer Sciences
Degree- A.S.
Certificate- Programming

2. *Computer Science Information Technology* (CSIT)/Office Administration (O.A.)- Using existing software to apply, input, and process information for professional work environments, personal use, teaching, and informing purposes.

Major- Computer Science Information Technology/Office Administration
Degree- Associate Degree
Certificate- Microcomputer (CSIT), Word Processing Specialist (O.A.)

3. *Engineering/Electronics*- Developing, designing, building, and analyzing a computers hardware, peripheral devices (keyboard, monitor, circuitry...).

Major- Micro Computer System Technology
Degree- A.S.
Certificate- Consumer Electronics Services Certificate (Dept. of Physics and Electronics), Interdepartmental Micro Computer System Certificate (joint with Electronics Department).

Sachs said, "Currently, there are no Computer Graphics classes being taught in either the Art or Computer Science departments . . . although this is a highly requested program by new and ongoing students. Valley College is competing with other colleges to update itself to industry standards by Spring 98 semester. Since classes change from semester to semester, consult with a counselor for type and availability."

Advanced Degrees- Check with a counselor who can tell you more about the specific requirements each college/university...requires for the major you choose. You can also consider transferring under the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP), which gives higher priority for admission then a regular transfer program for some schools.

Step 3
Career Choices- Almost every business, company, firm uses a computer. The field is open and expanding in private industry, public sector, government, military, arts and entertainment.

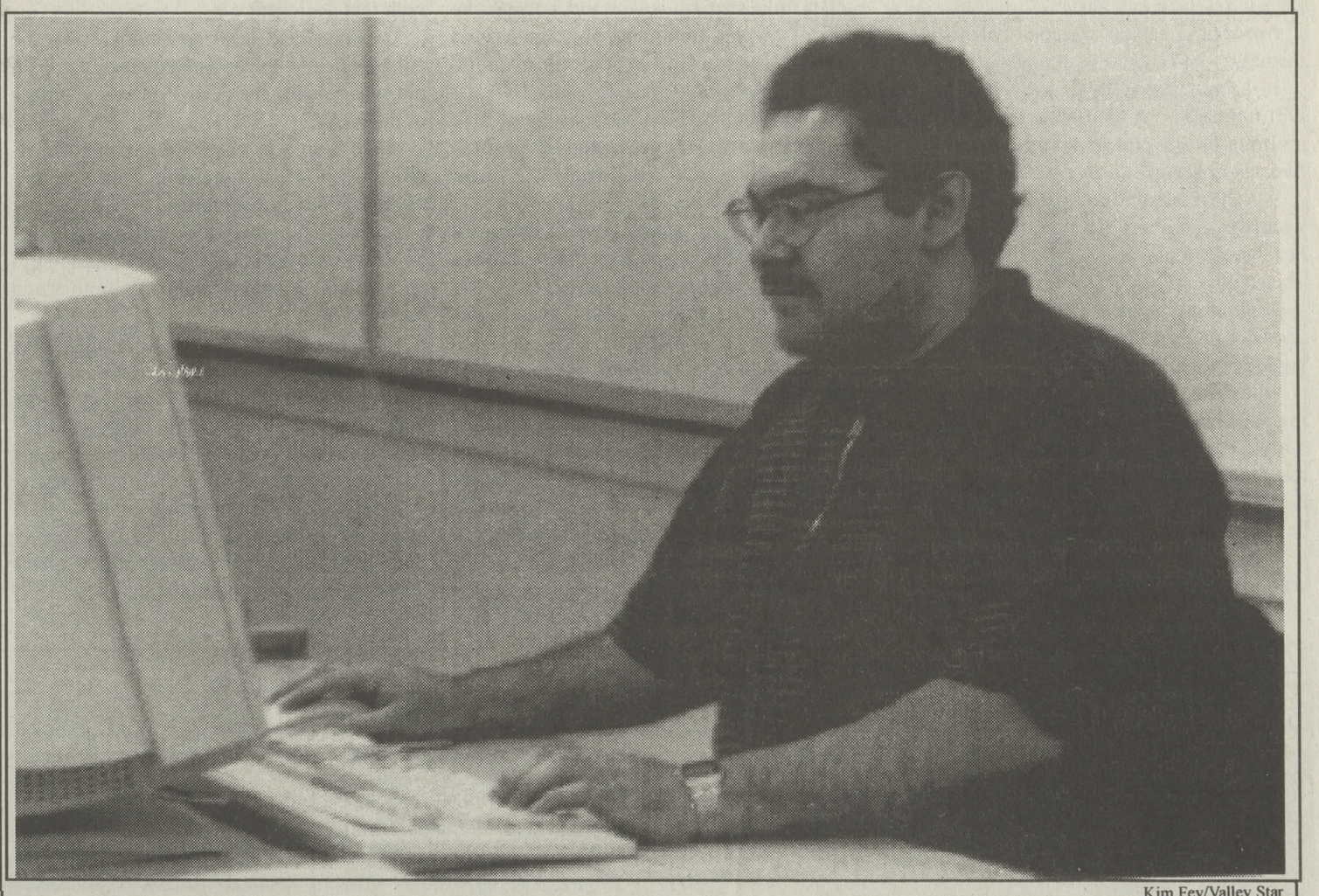
Partial list of professions:
Programming-
1. Personalize a program designed for a special purpose.
2. Devise systems to compute payroll and taxes.
3. Write programs to guide rockets and missiles.
4. Teacher/Consultant.

CSIT/O.A.
1. Data Processor (data entry).
2. Writer (technical, creative).
3. Designer (creative/website).
4. Teacher/Consultant.

Engineering/Electronics
1. Designing new computers.
2. Improving printer technology.
3. Repairing broken computers.

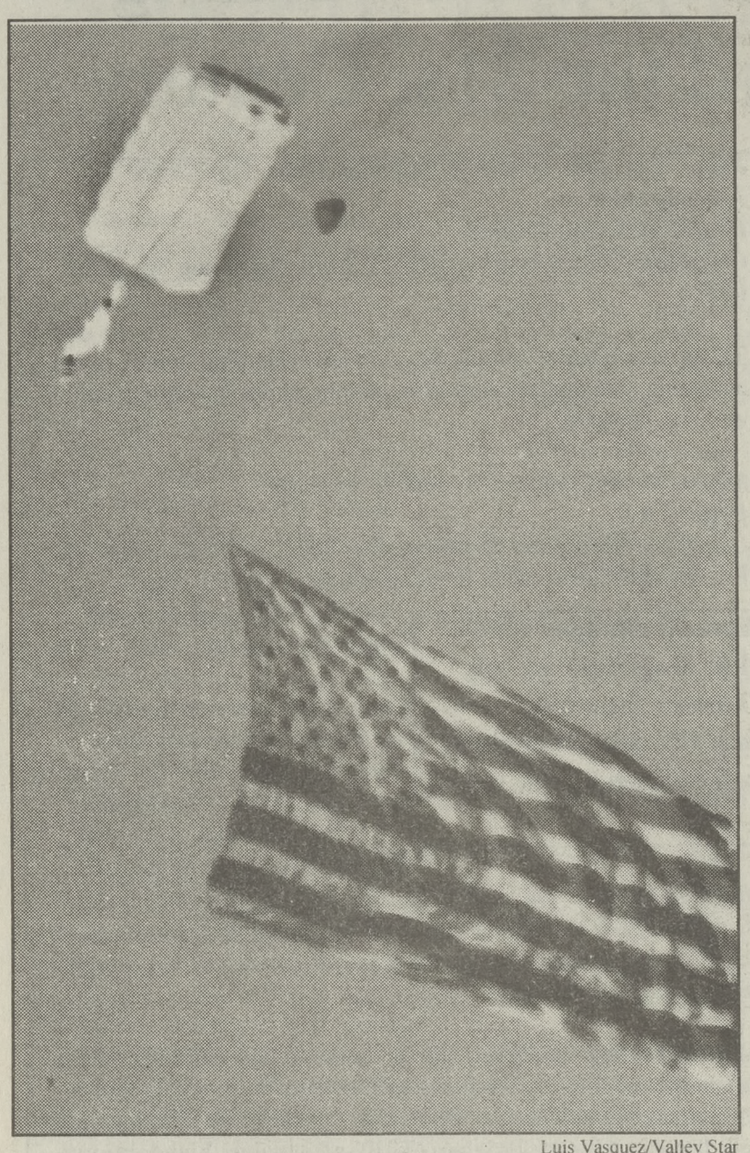
Salary/Occupational Futures- There is no industry standard or average salary. This is an open field on all occupational levels and skilled people are in high demand. Earnings depend on general/individual business conditions, degree, and overall experience and expertise.

Dr. Sachs is on the advisory committee through LAVC office administration. Committee members include the State Education Development Department (EDD), private industry, and the public sector. They inform colleges on jobs that are in high demand, hiring trends, and upcoming software needs.



Kim Fey/Valley Star

Specialty areas in computer sciences include Computer Programming, Computer Science Information Technology and Engineering/Electronics.



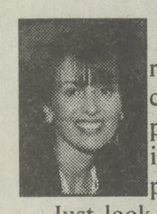
Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

Skydiver shows off his patriotism at the Point Mugu airshow.

The Truth Hurts:

Is Patriotism Dead?

BY DEEANNE McCLAIN
STAR REPORTER



Apathy is running rampant in this country and real patriotism is becoming a thing of the past.

Just look at the nation's attitude about politics. In general, it's safe to say that most people have a cynical attitude about our politicians, believing them to be corrupt weasels and side-steppers.

"I think politicians are all scammin' something," Humanities major Beatrice Campello said. "Just look at all the money they spend on getting elected and yet they never speak on any kind of legitimate platform."

The nation is obviously losing its faith in the system and those who run it. Since 1964, the percentage of registered voters under age 65 has consistently dropped from around 80 percent to 57.9 percent in 1996, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The percentage of those registered voters under 65 who actually made it to the polls has also dropped from an average of 75 percent to 49.2 percent in 1996. Those Americans over 65 have managed to maintain a respectable percentage in both categories with an average of 76 percent registered and about 65 percent of those voting.

The reasons for this are obvious. The country feels their votes don't matter. Take our propositions for example.

Millions vote for a proposition like 187 or 209 with overwhelming numbers and a small percentage take the issue to Federal Appeals Court Judge, Maryana Pfelzer who votes the proposition down. What good does it do to vote if one judge can overturn it?

The only time people seem to talk about the United States Constitution or the Bill of Rights is when those rights are being threatened, like during war. Every day, Americans take these principles for granted. We're spoiled.

There is a 7-11 on every corner and by God, someone owes us a living! Wrong!

The principles this country were founded on were, at that time, very ingenious and quite daring. The foresight of our forefathers was amazing. Our constitution remains unchanged and runs this country! These bright men designed a system that allows us to remain the country of freedom, liberty and justice for all.

Sure you may laugh at the idea of true justice. Most would. Justice can seem like a foreign ideal with crazed killers on death row watching Oprah for 15 years from their cozy, warm cells.

However, if you travel and spend some time in any other country, you'll find that America is truly the land of milk and honey by comparison.

How did you feel when the threat of another conflict in Iraq seemed imminent? Would you go running into your local recruiting office and sign up for service, hoping to serve your country? Or, like most Americans, would you sit in your armchair, watching CNN, shouting patriotic phrases?

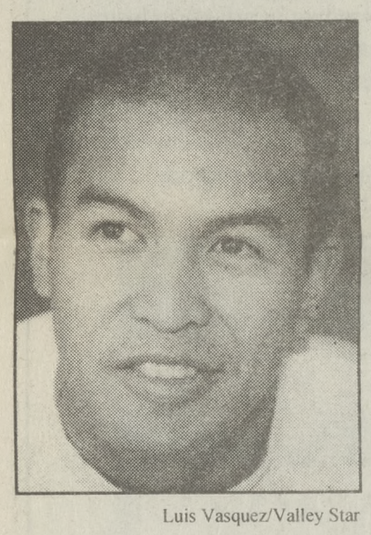
Political disruption or looming threats seem to be the only things that bring the country into a more patriotic frame of mind. Chinese philosopher, Lao-Tzo said, "When the country falls into chaos, patriotism is born."

What can we do about this? Read the Constitution. Remember what it stands for. Remember that one person can make a difference. Apathy solves nothing.

Write letters to your political leaders and fight for what you believe in. Don't be another gap in the system.

This country may not be perfect, but after all, we as college students are its future. Make a difference.

What Do You Think About Patriotism?



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"It depends on how you interpret it. Nationalism is a good thing. People should be more into being united or to be expressive of where they came from."

Reyaris Tubadeza

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

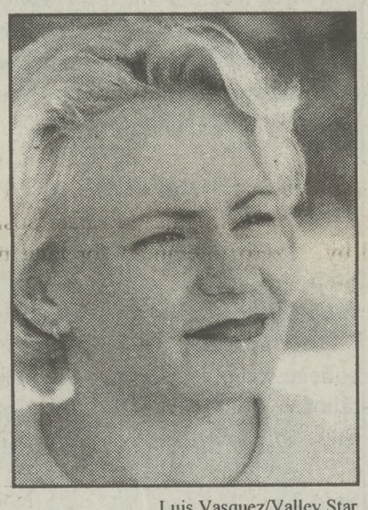
"People should stand up for their country and stand up for what they believe in. I guess that's what it's all about."

Angie Arrollo

Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

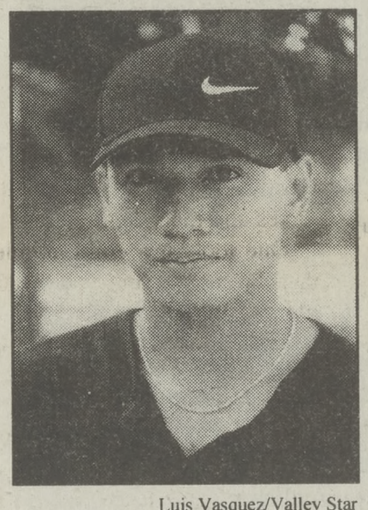
"You shouldn't have so much that it is going to start wars and stuff like that."

Alvin Cuna



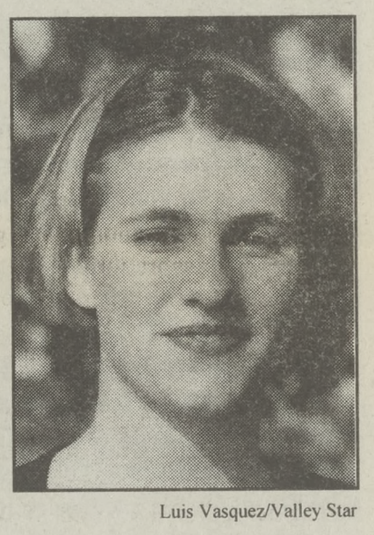
Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"I don't think it's much of an issue today. I know what patriotism is, but I don't think it really affects me at all. I have pride in my own country and everything, but I don't think it's revelant to our daily lives." **Amy Weary**



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"We all need to belong to something. It there is one common ground, it's the American dream, the national anthem, the flag and pride in what your country is doing and the opportunities it provides." **Shane Ross**



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

"It's very important. I think everyone has to have pride in their country."

Hillary Davis

Something About Fertility Drugs:

By LIZ RODRIGUEZ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

America is having a second baby, (boom that is).

In keeping up with the recent news one will notice a rash of no-longer-uncommon multiple births. Not two or three, but four, five, six or seven.

Is this outbreak due to something in the water or some natural phenomenon? Not necessarily, a major player in this babyrama are fertility drugs.

Drugs like Clomid and Pergonal are being used by infertile couples to stimulate the female body to ovulate.

While this is an effective method of having children, its side effects include the body's production of more than one egg, resulting in multiple births.

There is a one in ten chance that there will be more than child born.

The now famous Iowa couple who had septuplets used fertility drugs. The average cost of giving birth to a child is $3,500 to $4,000.

Multiply that by seven and add up the costs of fertility treatment. It is impossible to expect this couple to pay their debts. Who's going to pay for these babies?

This couple has been fortunate to receive free gifts from various generous groups. However, those gifts will somehow be paid for by John Q. Average.

This brings up several issues. There are many other couples who are having multiple births, most of whom will not receive the same media attention as the Iowa septuplets.

Nothing short of octuplets will get media attention at this point.

But it is not likely that these other families will receive the same amount of financial support. While many will be able to get by just fine, there still will be some who will be forced to receive government assistance.

There is the option of selecting the amount of children a couple will have. This means the parents must pick and choose which child will live or die. Who wants to be faced with that decision?

Is using fertility drugs really worth the pain, difficult choices and expenses? Maybe, but what about the baby Princess Jasmines of the world?

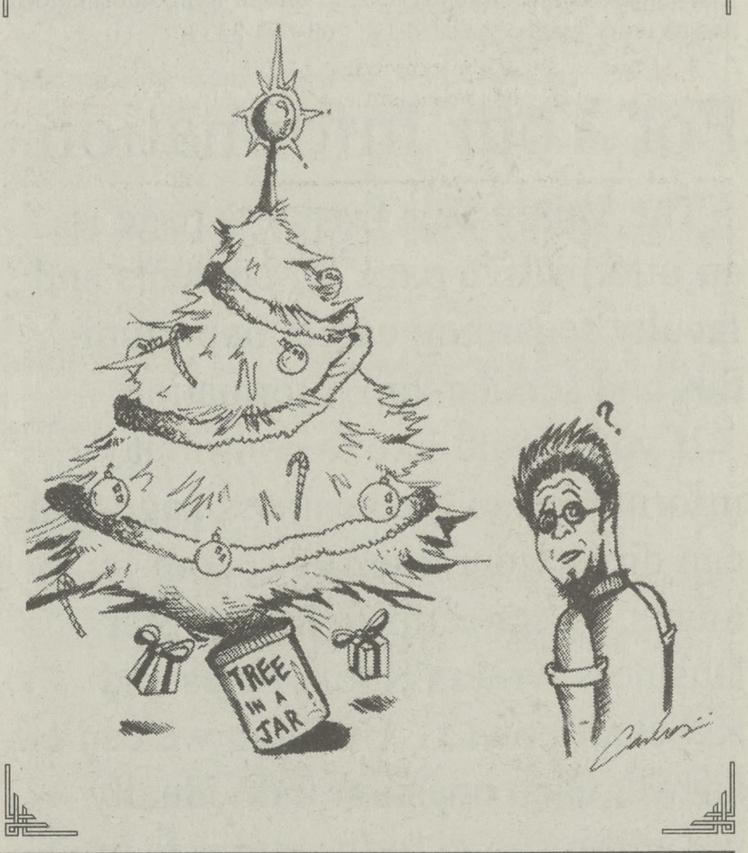
There is an overwhelming amount of children being left in dumpsites, public bathrooms and put into adoption.

Parents using fertility drugs long for a child as much as abandoned children long to know the love and warmth of a mother and father.

The truest act of love and kindness is taking in a child and raising it as one's own.

Instead of adding to the ever expanding population by taking fertility drugs, infertile couples should seriously consider all of the consequences, both ethical and financial.

Finally, one should get rid of the selfish mentality that a child has to be biologically theirs and be open to welcoming an abandoned or orphaned child into their hearts.



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For Your Information

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Editorial:

Speeding On Campus

Smash, crash, bang!

"Oops, I'm sorry," does not excuse the twisted metal or the broken lights from an accident. Why not just slow down?

During the past semester there have been many complaints about students driving too fast on and around campus. The campus police get complaints about students speeding on Ethel Avenue. The police barricaded Ethel Avenue because of the speeding, yet students find elsewhere on campus to race. The fundamental fact that these students are overlooking is that speeding is reckless driving. There is a speed limit of 15 mph when driving on campus but too many students and faculty ignore it.

The campus police said that the majority of the incidents take place behind the cafeteria, in Lot G and along Campus Drive where there is always a lot of traffic.

Why would anyone want to risk their life and the lives of others because of time? If you leave home with plenty of time to get to class, then you won't have to worry about speeding. If you schedule your day properly you will find that there is plenty of time to get where you want to go without running over people and crashing into other cars.

According to the statistics from a survey of students, they agree that people drive too fast on campus. Students are rushing to get a parking spot and are not paying attention to other students walking through the parking lots. No one wants to be the cause of an accident. It is the responsibility of the driver to watch for pedestrians because they are not always watching for themselves.

With all the bad weather and the holidays coming up, the problem is getting worse. Everyone has somewhere to go and something to do. If you are speeding you are not increasing your chances of getting to your destination on time. Instead, you are increasing your chances of having an accident.

Everyone seems to be in a rush. What happened? Did someone shorten the amount of hours in a day?

Driving fast is a part of California lifestyle. People overextend themselves or wait for the last possible moment to leave, and then they have to rush to get to work and to school.

During the past week, accidents have increased. In Los Angeles County there were over 200 reported accidents which involved possible speeding. The information obtained from the California Highway Patrol statistically show the number increased because of the rain and the holiday.

Well, the holiday- season has begun and rain is expected to fall. Is this an excuse to drive faster? No. It is all the more reason for each of us to slow down and enjoy the day. After all, the words, "I'm sorry," never saved a life.

Who Asked U About Landmines?

BY LEO SMITH
STAR REPORTER

Hey, who is that handsome devil to the left?

Well, it's not Leo Smith, so just forget about hunting that guy for sport. OK?

So, this past month brought us a new and vexing Nobel Peace Prize winner, Jody Williams. She, in cahoots with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), won this prestigious award thanks to her tireless endeavor to rid the world of anti-personnel devices.

It is estimated that devices of this kind kill or maim 26,000 people a year. Most of these victims are civilians, and a great many of those are children.

Hers is a cause so saintly, so altruistic, so intimately humanitarian, that it became the late ex-Princess of Wale's favorite charity. It is no wonder that upwards of 40 nations, including Russia, have already signed the treaty.

Avid readers should be expecting a real big "BUT" right about now.

The problem with the Nobel being granted to this vapid ex-hippie is her obstinate attitude on the issue of anti-personnel ordnance.

Williams' group invariably points to the horrors of Angola, Cambodia, Zaire and Bosnia to illustrate the intrinsic evil of land mines and their deployers.

One look at a child hobbled by these weapons and forced to don plastic appendages is a real Kleenex emergency. However, these examples don't indicate any maliciousness on behalf of the main absentee from the treaty, the USA, the object of Williams' scorn.

It is true, the land mine is a gruesome weapon of war that all too often is the cause of injury to the wrong people. However, that fact alone does not justify their outright eradication.

The value of these mines is immeasurable on the battlefield, both as a deterrent and as a first line of defense in order to protect American lives.

I may not agree with President Clinton on many things, but on this issue, I've got his back.

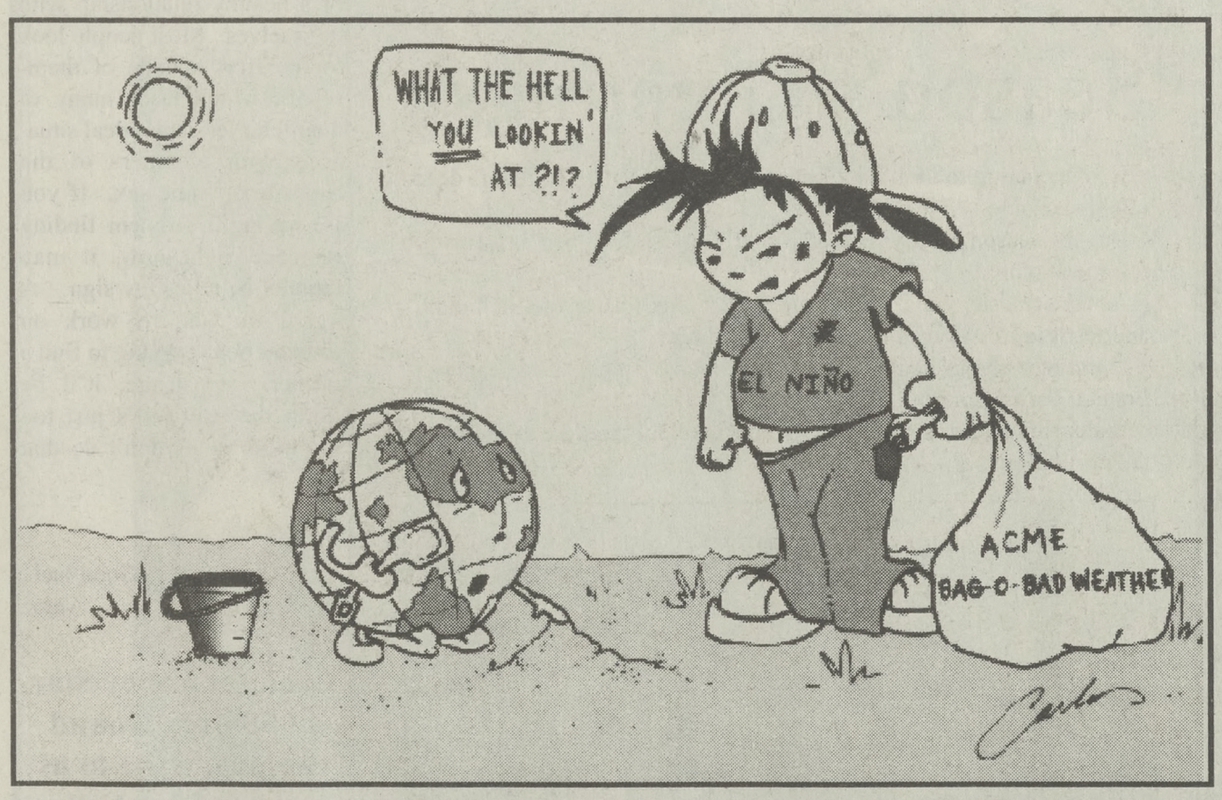
When it comes down to protecting American lives, I say "by any means necessary." Land mines are presently in use by American forces where there is a clear and present jeopardy to their safety. Along the North/South Korean border land mines have inspired the North to try to circumvent the fields by tunneling under them, a clear indication the deterrent works.

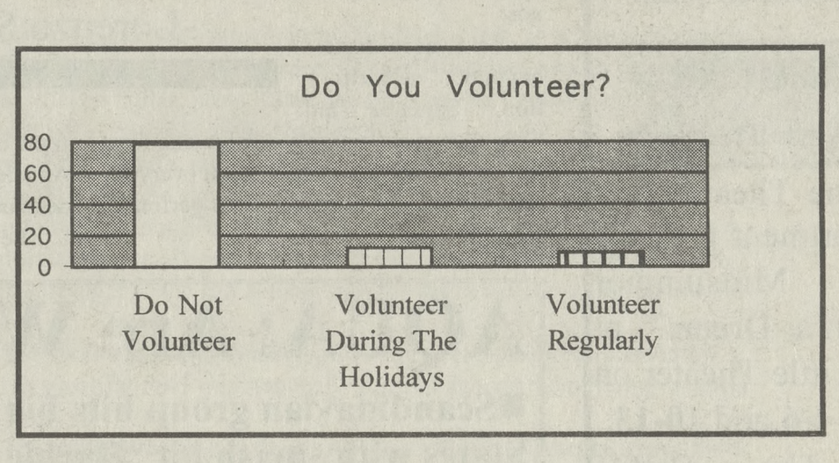
Williams' staunch position of "zero tolerance" for land mines is inexcusable.

The public may presently be swayed to her side by the sight of cripples in some third world country, but if one American boy were to die because the land mines removed from his DMZ allowed the Commies to march right in and kill him, things would quickly change.

Land mines have a place in the defense of lives, though they have to kill to achieve this. War is a messy business, but placing restrictions such as a moratorium on shotguns or not allowing airstrikes in Cambodia only exasperate a conflict and cost more lives.

The bad guys of Jody Williams' imagination do not sit in the Oval Office. They are the faceless butchers that don't give a damn about public opinion, Williams or the people those mines hurt.





Giving Thanks to Volunteers

Laura Renolds
Star-Reporter

Thank you volunteers! Some of our students know the value of volunteering.

Valley College students volunteered both on Thanksgiving Day and during the week. The Homeless and anyone in need came for food at Saint Jane Francis de Chantal located in North Hollywood.

Aids Project LA, The Salvation Army and some of our own campus clubs helped support the effort.

Students from Valley volunteered at Saint Jane Francis de Chantal, doing various tasks at the church and helping serve food.

A great number of people from the surrounding communities donated food to help the vast needs of the homeless and those in need. It was a remarkable sight to see because lines started early and all were served who needed food.

Much of the success for this event goes to the excellent planning by Ted Lerchenmuller, director of the food pantry at Saint Jane's. "We are always in need of food items for Saint Jane Francis de Chantal food pantry. Non-perishable fresh canned goods are best: tuna, meats peanut butter, soups, vegetables, fruits and fruits juices. Boxed cereal granola bars, rice and pastas are also needed."

"We are always in need of food items for Saint Jane Francis de Chantal food pantry."

...Ted Lerchenmuller
Dir. Saint Jane Francis Food Pantry

Any one interested in donating items can reach Mr. Lerchenmuller at (818)766-7393.

Some campus clubs, such as Phi Theta Kappa and the Honors club, also donated food to aid the homeless from Valley.

It was estimated over 1000 meals were handed out during this Thanksgiving. The rain didn't stop volunteers from feeding the homeless or recipients from getting their food.

Many of us were not aware of the problems some of our fellow students face such as homelessness and hunger. Here at Valley, the Job Training Partnership Act Program (JTPA) supports students in need by providing jobs.

Some eligibility requirements are that the students must be residents of Los Angeles, 22 years of age or older and qualify within the guide lines as a dislocated worker currently receiving unemployment insurance or welfare benefits.

Neil Roberts, M.S is the JTPA counselor in (Blg.47) and can help with any questions that students may have about the program.

If only one could grasp the big picture and see how important it is to help out the community, they would see that they not only serve others, but themselves as well.

Ask any volunteer and they will tell you how rewarding giving can be.

What's Your Opinion?

The Valley Star would love to receive and if possible, publish your letters. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations.

Submitted letters should be limited to 250 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. Letters must be signed and include student's ID number.

Letters may be left with the Valley Star at BJ 114 by Friday morning for the following Thursday.

Also, look for our mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or send E-mail to Wordmker@ aol.com.

Valley Symphony Orchestra Presents Classical World Premier

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

The Valley Symphony Orchestra performed a world premier in front of a full crowd in the Little Theater on Nov. 22.

The orchestra performed its second concert of their 1997-98 season. They played four pieces by American composers under the direction of Valley College Professor Dr. Robert Chauls. Guest pianist Lorenzo Sanchez was also on hand to play in two concertinos.

"It was a treat beyond description," Sanchez said. "We always perform classical music from the people who are dead. It's not everyday that one gets the opportunity to perform a world premier."

> "We always perform classical music from people who are dead. It's not everyday that one gets the opportunity to perform a world premier."
>
> -Lorenzo Sanchez

The new classical piece which had its world premier was composed by Robert Gurllory, a young film composer and classical composer who won the Valley ;Symphony Orchestra composer competion last year and who's a friend of Sanchez.

Sanchez labels Curllory as very gifted.

"The audience was warm," Sanchez said. "Playing for them was very enjoyable."

According to the music department, the Valley Symphony Orchestra is compiled with a dynamic group of some of the finest orchestra players in Los Angeles who are well-known for their dedications to American composers.

The orchestra also enters its sixth full season of concerts in which the themes of the concerts have something to do with American composers, living and dead.

Dr. Chauls, who leads the band, is a music professor. He is a nationally known conductor, composer and pianist.

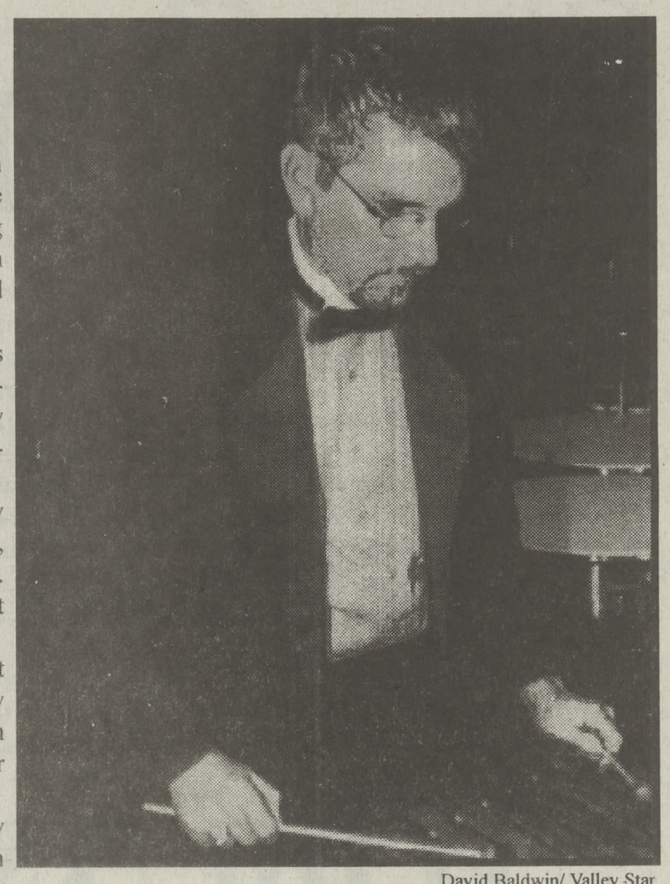
"The music was very good," Brenda Chavez, psychology major, said. "I enjoyed being there. It was very professional."

The music department encourages Valley College students to join them in the rest of their 1997-98 season.

The Valley Symphony Orchestra will perform XXX.

The music department will also honor the winning composer of their fourth annual composition competition on their last performance of the season on May 3, 1998.

Sanchez, an elementary school teacher in Hawthorne, was invited to Valley College by Gurllory.



David Baldwin/ Valley Star

A member of the Valley College Symphony Orchestra plays in the world premier of "XXX."

Calendar

■ The Valley College Music Department will perform "The Holly, Ivy and You, A Festival of Holiday Music" **Dec. 7** at 7 p.m. at the Monarch Hall.

ADMIT ONE
Little Theater

■ The Theater Arts Department presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Little Theater on **Dec. 4-6** and **10-13.**

■ The Valley College Planetarium presents its monthly show "Women In Astronomy," **Dec. 5** at 8 p.m. The Astronomy Club also invites the public to their "Monthly Star Party" on **Dec. 6** at 3 p.m. For information on both events please call 778-0335.

■ There will be Yiddish folk music, sing-alongs, and refreshments at the Pre-Chanukah "Back to the Shtetl" Party in Tarzana **Dec. 13** at 8:30 p.m. For more information (818) 887-6053.

■ The Bereavement Support Group will host people who are experiencing grief during the holidays on **Dec. 9** and **16** at 3:30 p.m. For information call (818) 365-8051.

AQUA: Are We Ready For Barbie?

■Scandinavian group hits big in United States with smash hit "Barbie Girl."

BY DEEANNE McCLAIN
STAR REPORTER

"Come on Barbie, let's go party!" are the lyrics that are making the Scandinavian band, AQUA, a huge hit here in the United States.

AQUA's CD, "Aquarium," is obviously for the music connoisseur with a less serious taste for their music. With song titles like "Barbie Girl" and "Doctor Jones," this band is obviously not trying to elicit serious emotion from its listeners.

The music has a lively, fun beat and could inspire one to dance with enthusiasm. Lead singer Lene Grawford Nystrom's voice actually sounds like an 11 inch doll's might in most of the songs, but it lends to the band's charm and energy.

Two of the songs, "Good Morning Sunshine" and "Be a Man," which are ballads, are the only deviation from the fun, almost B52's flavor of the music. All you have to do is flip through the CD jacket to see how playful the band is.

Inside are a few delightful graphic illustrations that I will leave to be discovered by those who purchase the CD.

AQUA has taken over the Scandinavian charts, selling fivefold platinum (250,000 units) in record breaking time, according to their press release.

They have entered the charts in Denmark at No. 1 with both the single "Barbie Girl" and the album "Aquarium."

Essentially, they've taken Europe by storm and are quickly catching the attention of the United States.

If you have a playful attitude about your music and you're not too serious, I recommend you add AQUA's "Aquarium" to your CD collection.

Courtesy of MCA

Dear Angie

Dear Angie,

I read last week's Dear Angie about the guy who doesn't know what to do with three girls. I think that this guy is lucky. I always have a hard time trying to get a date for Saturday night. Well, I guess I want to know what should I do about meeting girls. I've tried everything; parties, clubs, gym even church. What should I do? Where should I look?

Sincerely,
Lonely Guy.

Dear Lonely Guy

I don't know you personally, but in reality, I don't think it makes much difference. The one thing that keeps people from finding healthy relationships with others is their lack of a healthy relationship with themselves. Most people look for comfort outside of themselves, which leads many of them into less than ideal situations with members of the opposite or same sex. If you are having a problem finding someone right now, it may actually be a healthy sign. A signal for you to work on yourself before trying to find a partner. Trust me, it'll be worth the wait. It's just too bad more of us don't do that first.

Good luck,
Angie

Look for Valley Star mailboxes around campus, write to us in care of LA Valley Star, 5800 Fulton Ave., Bldg. B, Van Nuys, CA 91401 or Email to Voicespeak@aol.com.

Marcy Petrique/Valley Star

A Valley home is camoflouged by Christmas decorations

Season's Greetings

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas as Valley residents decorate their homes.

It is the season for giving thanks and showing love and appreciation for one another.

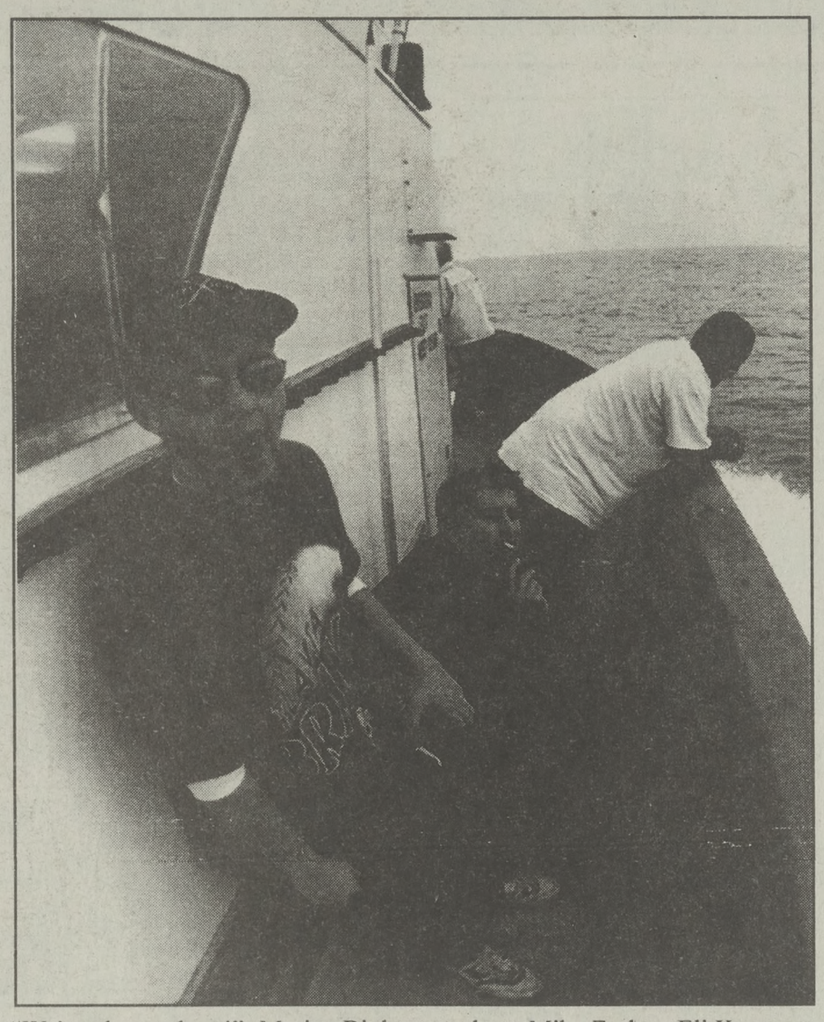
As the semester ends, students at Valley look forward to the lights and festivites that go along with the holidays.

"Decorating your home is part of the holiday spirit," said Jeanine Frank a Valley resident.

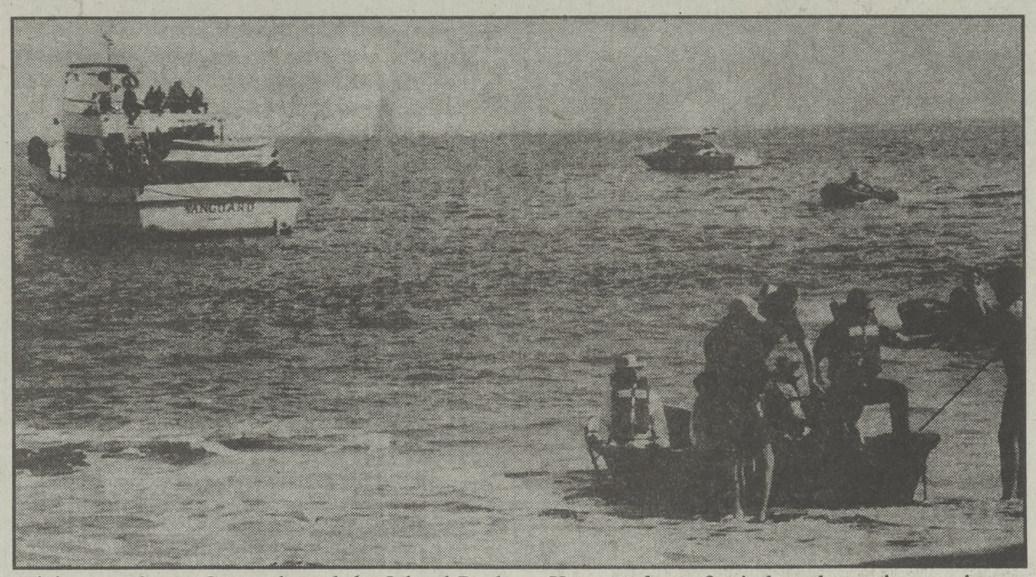
Frank said that it is nice when people take out the time to look at the decorations.

Marcy Petrique/Valley Star

Even the three wise men took out time to appreciate the beauty of the holidays.



"We're almost there!" Marine Biology students Mike Forbes, Eli Kogman, and Lorenzo Trujillo can't wait to get to Santa Cruz Island and set up camp.



Visitors to Santa Cruz, aboard the Island Packers *Vanguard,* are ferried to shore six at a time.

Santa Cruz Campout

Photos and Text by Kathy Lustig

Oceanography students battled sea sickness on Dr. Frantz's annual field trip to Santa Cruz Island on November 7. Students suffered the unforgiving swells in the undaunted pursuit of class credits. The expedition began with a two hour tour to the majestic island where students would proceed to spend a night with the wild boars, foxes and sheep. Santa Cruz, the largest of California's Channel islands, served as a rustic hostel for around eight students in Oceanography 2 and 10.

The primitive surroundings triggered the campers primal instinct to eat, an activity they participated in round the clock. The menu included appetizers like buffalo wings and Cyan shrimp. Entrees were carne asadas, chicken fajitas, pasta, salad and Smores that topped it off.

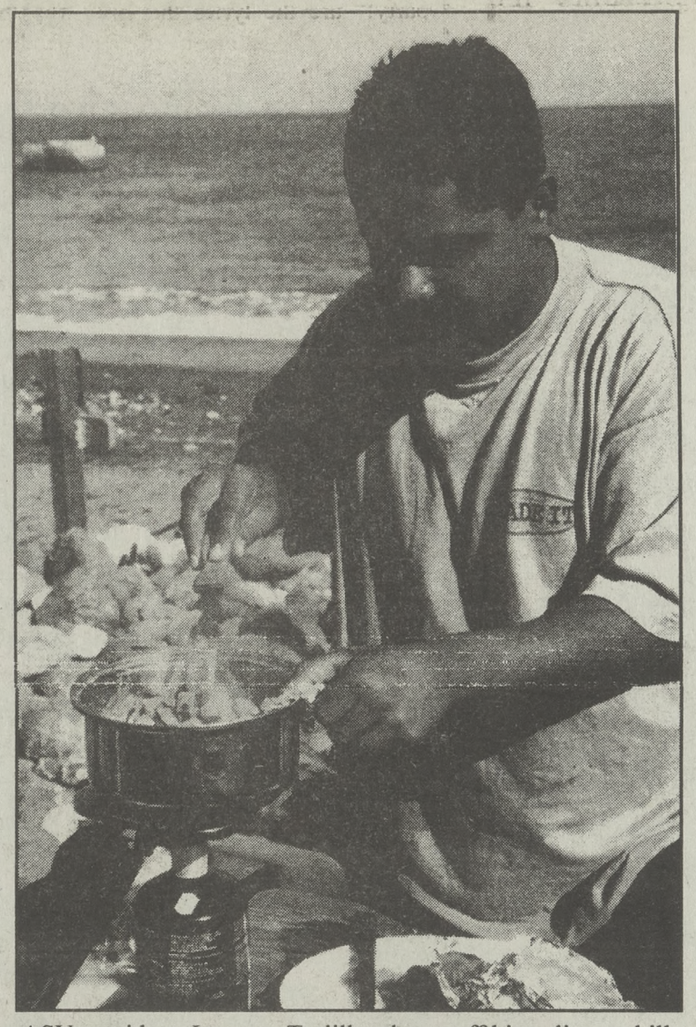
Food, though plentiful, did not occupy all of the students time.

Utilizing the clear waters of the island's shore, students snorkeled in the blue waters and kayaked in the frothing surf. The intrepid skin divers found the seas teeming with life, from the childlike california sealion to the amazingly colorful Nudibranch, more commonly known as a sea slug. The mountains were conquered in order to view the spectacular sunsets best viewed from the wind beaten tops. The sight of the sun sinking into the azure beauty of the Pacific left many breathless.

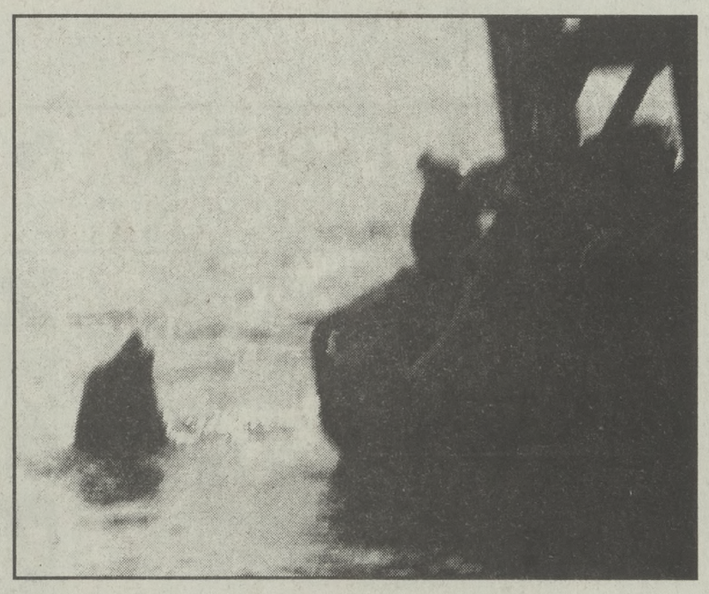
The night was spent in a shallow canyon buffeted by towering eucalyptus trees planted by early European farmers. The plentiful food was staunchly guarded against the pilfering wildlife found on the island.

Waking early Saturday, the students continued their hallowed tradition of gorging themselves and ignored the time honored rule of waiting at least an hour before swimming. The boat arrived at the island at three to transport the exhausted troupe back to the smoggy mainland. Once aboard, the students proceeded to promptly pass out for the duration of the trek home.

Going back to humble beginnings, students get comfortable at our meager campsite during our short stay on the island.



ASU president, Lorenzo Trujillo, shows off his culinary skills by the shore.



Athletes of the Month

Name:
Leon Brisport

Grade Level:
Sophomore

Sport:
Basketball

High School:
Erasmus Hall (Brooklyn, NY)

Accomplishments:
Brisport was the M.V.P. of the Fullerton Tournament that Valley won. He was the Western States Conference Player of the Week and throught the first five games of the season he has averaged 15.2 points per game and 6.8 rebounds per game.

Name:
Nyoki McKeith

Grade Level:
Sophomore

Sport:
Basketball

High School:
Taft High

Accomplishments:
McKeith is the captain of this years Women's team. She has excellant speed and quickness and is a great defender.. She had 10 assists vs. Porterville and hit two clutch freethrows vs. Cuesta to win the game. Currently she is averaging nine points per game and four assists per game.

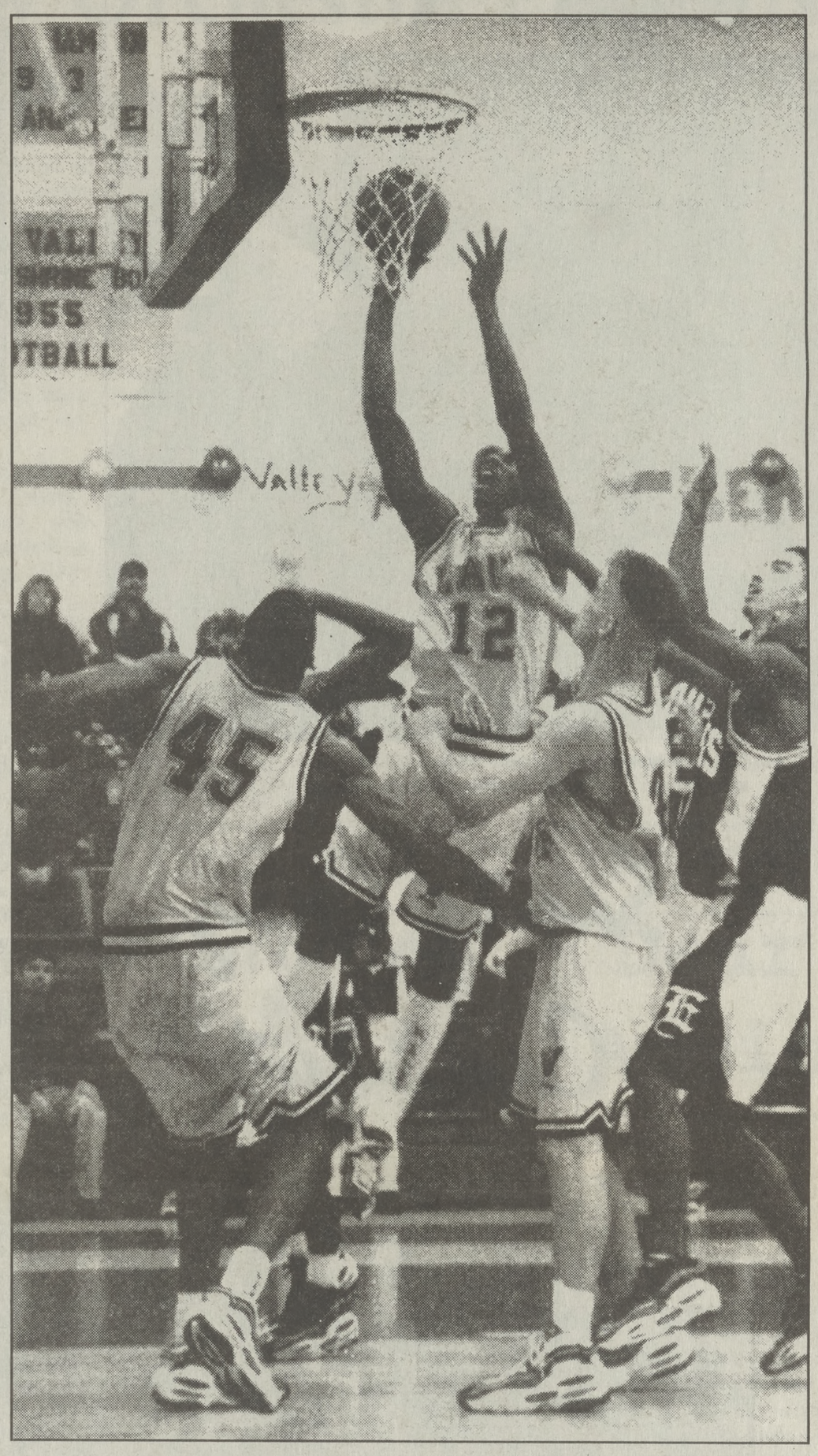
Men's Basketball Home Schedule

Dec. 9 vs. Allen Hancock**
Dec. 16 vs. Victor Valley**
Jan. 10 vs. Ventura**
Jan. 17 vs. Moorpark***
Jan. 24 vs. Santa Monica***
Jan. 31 vs. Glendale***
Feb. 4 vs. Bakersfield***
Feb. 7 vs. Canyons***
Feb. 14 vs. West L.A.***

Women's Basketball Home Schedule

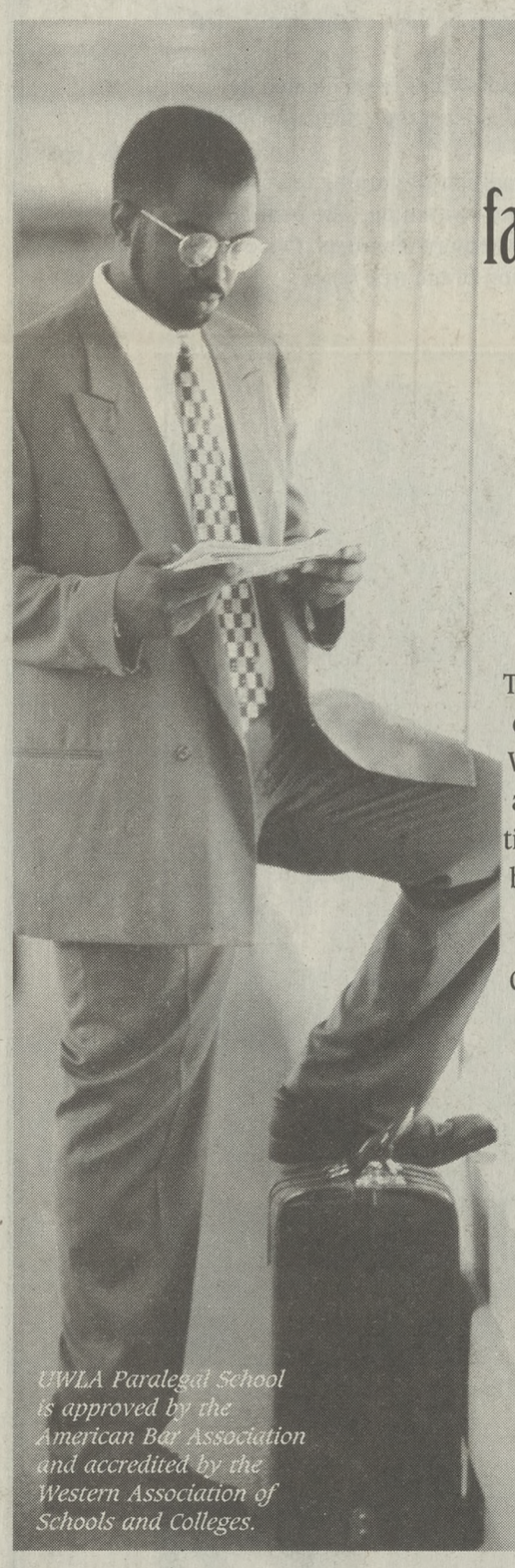
Dec. 11-13 Valley Tourn. ***
Dec. 20 vs. Oxnard*
Jan. 3 vs. Santa Barbara**
Jan. 13 vs. Moorpark**
Jan. 17 vs. Allen Hancock*
Jan. 24 vs. Santa Monica*
Jan. 31 vs. Glendale*
Feb. 4 vs. Bakersfield*
Feb. 7 vs. Canyons*
Feb. 9 vs. Pierce*
Feb. 14 vs. West L.A.*

* 5:30 game time
** 7:00 game time
*** 7:30 game time
**** Time TBA



Luis Vasquez/Valley Star

In a narrow loss to East Los Angeles College, the Monarchs scored 70 points, only to be outdone by East L.A. who scored 72. Tyree Williams(above) puts in a lay-up for two of the Monarch's points, but the team was led by Leon Brisport who put in 27 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Gianandrea helped him and the team when he put in 13 points and grabbed five rebounds. Ronnie Noel, a new comer to the squad displayed his unselfishness when he led the team with six assists.



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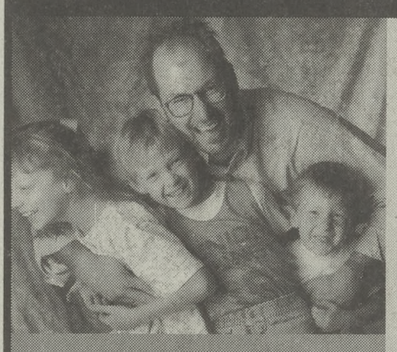
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